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Amendments to the Claims

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

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Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A document image management system for managing a plurality of stored documents, said system comprising:

a central database storing said plurality of stored documents therein; and

a user display device for displaying thereon at least one of said stored documents, said central database forwarding said at least one document to said user display device pursuant to a given user query, said at least one document containing a plurality of images, a first of said images being a full image and the remainder of said plurality of images being a single file of thumbnail images, whereby when a user of said user display device selects a given thumbnail image from said remaining plurality of images, the central database forwards the full image corresponding to said given thumbnail image.

2. (Currently Amended) A method for transmitting a plurality of images within a document, said method comprising the steps of:

selecting, by a user of a display device, said document stored within a central database; and

transmitting, by said central database to said display device, said plurality of images corresponding to said document, a first of said images being a full image and the remainder of said plurality of images corresponding to said document being a single file of thumbnail images, whereby when said user of said display device selects a given thumbnail image from said remaining plurality of images, the central database forwards the full image corresponding to said given thumbnail image.

3. (Previously Presented) The document image management system of claim 1, further comprising a configuration element for providing speed and quality enhancements to processing image queries.

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4. (Previously Presented) The document image management system of claim 3, wherein the configuration element provides speed and quality enhancements to at least one of the group consisting of: cleanup of images, extraction of barcode values to automate data entry, and using database lookups to automatically populate index values.

5. (Previously Presented) The document image management system of claim 1, wherein the thumbnail images are created and stored in a single file using a system identification number.

6. (Previously Presented) The document image management system of claim 1, wherein the stored documents include respective image identification numbers for indexing each of said plurality of images in said at least one document.

7. (Previously Presented) The method for transmitting a plurality of images within a document of claim 2, further comprising the step of:

configuring indexing information to provide speed and quality enhancements when processing image queries.

8. (Previously Presented) The method for transmitting a plurality of images within a document of claim 7, wherein the step of configuring indexing information provides at least one further step from the group consisting of: cleaning up the images, extracting barcode values to automate data entry, and using database lookups to automatically populate index values.

9. (Previously Presented) The method for transmitting a plurality of images within a document of claim 2, wherein the thumbnail images are created and stored in a single file by system identification number.

10. (Previously Presented) The method for transmitting a plurality of images within a document of claim 2, wherein the document records comprise image identification numbers for indexing each of said plurality of images in said at least one document

11. (Currently Amended) A document image management system for managing a plurality of stored documents, said system comprising:

a document maker, said document maker creating document records for each of a plurality of documents and thumbnail representations of each image within a document;

a central database storing said plurality of created documents therein, each document comprising a plurality of images and a corresponding plurality of image identification numbers, whereby said image identification numbers index said plurality of documents;

a system journal, said system journal logging and tracking functions performed by the document image management system on said documents stored in said central database;

a cache controller communicating with the central database and indicating to a user-side cache the status of images; and

a user display device for displaying thereon at least one of said stored documents, said central database forwarding said at least one document to said user display device pursuant to a given user query, said at least one document containing a plurality of images, a first of said images being a full image and the remainder of said plurality of images being a single file of thumbnail images, whereby when a user of said user display device selects a given thumbnail image from said remaining plurality of images, the central database forwards the full image corresponding to said given thumbnail image.

12. (Previously Presented) The document image management system of claim 11, further comprising a configuration element for providing speed and quality enhancements to processing image queries.

13. (Previously Presented) The document image management system of claim 12, wherein the configuration element provides speed and quality enhancements to at least one of the group consisting of: cleanup of images, extraction of barcode values to automate data entry, and using database lookups to automatically populate index values.

14. (Previously Presented) The document image management system of claim 11, wherein the thumbnail images are created and stored in a single file using a system identification number.

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15. (Previously Presented) The document image management system of claim 11, wherein the stored documents include respective image identification numbers for indexing each of said plurality of images in said at least one document.

16. (Currently Amended) A method for transmitting a plurality of images within a document, said method comprising the steps of:

selecting, by a user of a display device, said document stored within a central database said document comprising a plurality of images and a corresponding plurality of image identification numbers, whereby said image identification numbers index said plurality of documents;

transmitting, by said central database to said display device, said plurality of images corresponding to said document, a first of said images being a full image and the remainder of said plurality of images corresponding to said document being a single file of thumbnail images, whereby when said user of said display device selects a given thumbnail image from said remaining plurality of images, the central database forwards the full image corresponding to said given thumbnail image; and

logging and tracking functions performed by the document image management system on said documents stored in said central database in a system journal element.

17. (Previously Presented) The method for transmitting a plurality of images within a document of claim 16, further comprising the step of:

configuring indexing information to provide speed and quality enhancements when processing image queries.

18. (Previously Presented) The method for transmitting a plurality of images within a document of claim 17, wherein the step of configuring indexing information provides at least one further step from the group consisting of: cleaning up the images, extracting barcode values to automate data entry, and using database lookups to automatically populate index values.

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19. (Previously Presented) The method for transmitting a plurality of images within a document of claim 16, wherein the thumbnail images are created and stored in a single file by system identification number.

20. (Previously Presented) The method for transmitting a plurality of images within a document of claim 16, wherein the document records comprise image identification numbers for indexing each of said plurality of images in said at least one document